tries. Hilferding declared that my article was contrary to the spirit of Marxism and could not appear in *Die Gesellschaft*. Even now I do not know whether or not my approach was compatible with Marxian doctrine, but I recognize that, as editor of the magazine, Hilferding was entitled to reject my article, the more so as it was too long and too technical for general readers. At the time, however, I thought the magazine should have published it, at least as a matter for discussion. Since Hilferding insisted that the fundamental principles of Marxism were not subject to discussion in his magazine, I broke with *Die Gesellschaft*.

By that time, however, my books and articles had attracted the attention of the labor unions representing the economic arm of the S-D party. In general, the unions had little respect for the intellectuals in the ranks of the labor movement, but since I had received recognition outside the movement, they decided I might be useful to them. Thus the Board of the General Federation of Labor Unions (ADGB) invited me to join its staff as chief of the statistical department and consultant on questions of economic policy. I faced a serious problem, for, in joining the staff of the ADGB, I would again have to leave my ivory tower of economic study and free-lancing for the turmoil of politics.

GERMANY A DECADE AFTER WORLD WAR I

Germany was then completing her economic recovery. Her economic comeback was spectacular. Less than a decade after the war, she was again the greatest economic power in Europe, outstripping both Great Britain and France. But politically she was a colossus of brass with feet of clay, unable to produce a strong and stable government. Her political structure—the Weimar Republic—hung in mid-air, having neither historical roots nor the support of the masses of the people. This precarious situation had been aggravated by the 1922-23 inflation, which had ruined Germany's middle class. German industry was expanding, its products were reappearing on world markets, its wages rising, but the middle class, including farmers and professional people, had no part in this prosperity and blamed the Republic for their predicament. The very existence of the Weimar Republic depended essentially on the support of manual and white-collar workers. Unfortunately, labor was deeply split. The existence of socialistic and Catholic labor unions was only a minor handicap—the two worked fairly well together. But Communist propaganda was injecting a deadly poison into the German labor movement. Working from inside